

**CH-800**

**c. 1875**

**Furbush Road, 13445**

**Bryantown**

**Private**

Demolished shortly after being surveyed, the house at 13445 Furbush Road was one of the few remaining examples of early 19th century domestic architecture in the Cobb Island/Rock Point vicinity. The two-part dwelling was two stories in height with a one-story kitchen wing. The dwelling had a wood frame, a metal seam roof and two interior end chimneys. Rock Point developed as a result of the commercial seafood industry which emerged along the major tributaries of Southern Maryland during the 1870s and 1880s. Oysters in particular, along with shad and herring, were important exports in Southern Maryland during the late 19th century.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-800

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Furbush Road, 13445 (demolished)  
other

### 2. Location

street and number 13445 Furbush Road not for publication  
city, town Newburg vicinity  
county Charles

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John A. and Mary E. Furbush  
street and number 13455 Furbush Road telephone unknown  
city, town Newburg, MD state MD zip code 20664-6520

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 89 p. 26  
city, town La Plata, MD liber 3315 folio 235

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report  
☐ Other

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

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## 7. Description

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### Condition

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> altered                 |
- 

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Demolished shortly after being surveyed, the house at 13445 Furbush Road was one of the few remaining examples of early 19th century domestic architecture in the Cobb Island/Rock Point vicinity. The two-part dwelling was two stories in height with a one-story kitchen wing. The dwelling had a wood frame, a metal seam roof and two interior end chimneys. Since replaced with a modern Victorian, the home faced Neale Sound Creek and stands on a .6 acre lot. This was one of a number of similar structures built in along Furbush Road.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

<b>Specific dates</b>	circa 1900	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	circa 1900		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Although now demolished, the House at 13445 Furbush Road was one of the last remaining examples of early 20th century vernacular architecture in the Rock Point area which developed as a result of the commercial seafood industry. The home was typical of those owned by watermen at the turn of the century. Commercial seafood was an important industry that began to appear in Southern Maryland during the 1870s and 1880s. Oysters in particular, along with shad and herring, were important exports in Southern Maryland during the late 19th century. At least three large oyster bottoms were located off of Charles County's shoreline. These included Cobb Island Bar, Swan Point Bar, Kettle Bottom Shoals and Old Farm Bar, the largest in the area between Popes Creek and the Kettle Bottom Channel. Urban growth throughout the nation stimulated the growth of the packing industry in Baltimore. Improved rail transportation, combined with improvements in food preservation, meant for the first time canned goods could now follow rail lines across the county and into the frontier.

After the Civil War, the oyster grounds and fisheries to the north were largely depleted and many waterman from the North turned their efforts to the Chesapeake Bay. Between 1872-1892, Maryland on average produced over 10 million bushels per year. The harvest of 1884-85 brought in 15 million bushels, the highest yield before and since, and represented 1/3 of the worldwide oyster harvest during that year. The agricultural depression of the post-war years encouraged many to abandon or supplement farming with seafood. By 1880, 120 people claimed to be either a fisherman, sailor or oysterman. Roughly half were oystermen.

The enormous fortunes at stake in the oyster industry, combined with over harvesting and declining yields, led to the infamous Oyster Wars of the late 19th century. Competition between oystermen was fierce and at times led to violence. Oystermen from the Northern Neck of Virginia, and the Maryland and Virginia Eastern Shore began dredging local oyster grounds, stiffening yields of local watermen. Labor was also a problem and many accounts exist of immigrants being "shanghaied" during the times of peak harvests. Some were brutally treated. Other accounts tell of workers not being compensated, abandoned or thrown overboard. Maryland's conservation commissioner, Swepson Earle stated in the early twentieth century that "the toughest of tough places on the Chesapeake in the 1890's was Rock Point on the Potomac River at the mouth of the Wicomico... Three killings a week created no civic resentment, while many weeks during the oyster season marked the departure from this life of as many as five or six men." Although it is difficult to judge just how overstated this may have been, in 1905 several highly publicized shoot-outs are known to have occurred off of the Cobb Neck Bar.

As a result of the railroad, Maryland became the leading state for packing oysters as well as a variety of farm produce including tomatoes. In Baltimore, canning was second only to garment-making. In 1880 Baltimore contributed 1/3 of all canning done in the United States. Along the Patuxent River, Benedict rivaled Solomon's Island in the number of oyster packing houses. Between 1900 and 1920 there were four companies in operation. Rock Point is known to have had at least four packing houses. During World War II, local watermen discovered a large oyster strike on Swann Point Bar. After the poor harvests and low prices of the early 20th century, these large, white flavorful oysters prompted a resurgence in the oyster industry along with increased hostility between

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Furbush Road, 13445 (demolished)

Continuation Sheet

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competing Virginia and Maryland oystermen and officials.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property .60

Acreage of historical setting .60

Quadrangle name Rock Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 89, Parcel 26.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 2/13/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-800

Section 9 Page 1

Furbush Road, 13445  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

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**Major Bibliographic References:**

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.  
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Hardy, Cathy Currey. "Phase III Final Report Charles County Historic Sites Survey."  
Charles County Planning. July 2002.

KCI Technologies, Inc. *Draft--Historic Context For the U.S. 301 Southern Corridor  
Transportation Study*. August 1996.

Klaphor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.  
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

Lewis, J. Frank & Company. *The Maryland Directory*. 1880. Baltimore

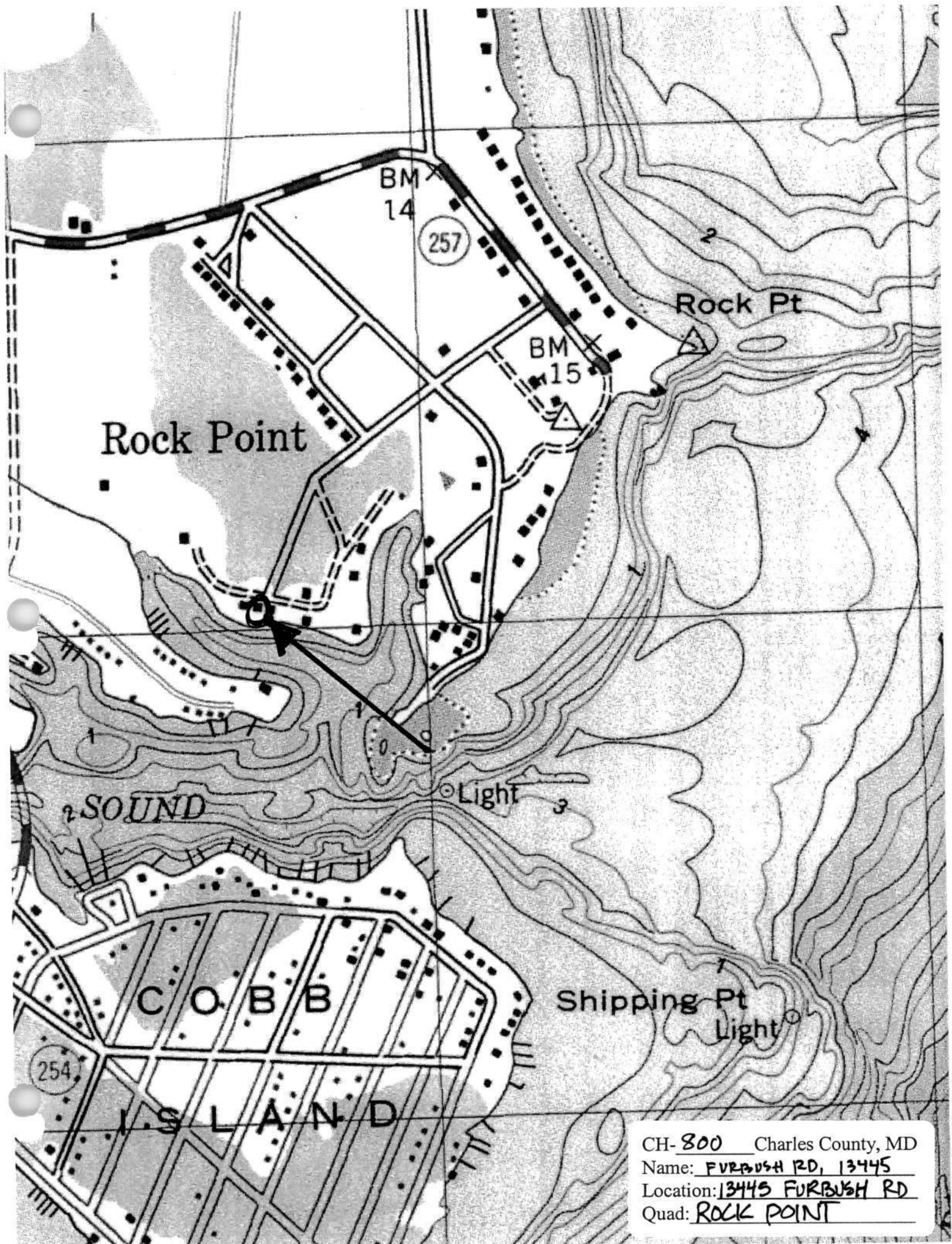
Tilp, Frederick. *This Was Potomac River*. Frederick Tilp, 1978.

Maps

Griffith, Dennis. *Map of the State of Maryland Laid down from an actual Survey of all the  
principal Waters, public Roads, and Divisions of the Counties therein....* Philadelphia, PA: J.  
Tallance, Engraver, June 6, 1795.

Martenet, Simon J. *Martenet's Map of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. Baltimore, MD:  
Simon J. Martenet, C.E., 1865; revised 1885.





CH- 800 Charles County, MD  
Name: FURBUSH RD, 13445  
Location: 13445 FURBUSH RD  
Quad: ROCK POINT





CH-800

FURBUSH PROPERTY 13445

ROCK POINT, MD

C. HARDY

7/2001

MD SHPO

#LOOKINGS

1 of 4



CH 800

~~PERBUSH~~ RD, 13445

ROCK POINT, MD

C. HARDY

7/2001

MD SHPO

SHED LOOKING N

2004



CH 800  
PERKINS ROAD 13445

ROCK POINT, MD

C. HARDY

7/2001

MD SAPO

VIEW OF RIVER ELEVATION, LOOKING S

30F4





at 800

FERRBUSH RD, 13445

ROCK POINT, MD

C. HARDY

7/2001

MD SHPO

VIEW OF RIVER, LOOKING SE, OYSTER HOUSE

4054